

Officer control over the planning, development and acquisition of information technology at the department. Introduction of that bill prompted some coordination of information technology among the department's agencies and offices. This revised legislation, which includes input from the administration, is now needed to strengthen that coordination and ensure that centralized information technology management continues in the future.

This legislation requires that the Chief Information Officer manage the design and implementation of an information technology architecture based on strategic business plans to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of USDA's program activities. Included in the bill is authority for the Chief Information Officer to approve expenditures over \$200,000 for information resources and for year 2000 compliance purposes, except for minor acquisitions. To accomplish these purposes, the bill requires the secretary to transfer up to 10 percent of each agency's information technology budget to the Chief Information Officer's control.

The bill makes the Chief Information Officer responsible for ensuring that the information technology architecture facilitates a flexible common computing environment for the field service centers based on integrated program delivery and provides maximum data sharing with USDA customers and other federal and state agencies, which is expected to result in significant reductions in operating costs.

The bill requires the Chief Information Officer to address the year 2000 computing crisis throughout USDA agencies, between USDA and other Federal, State, and local agencies and between USDA and private and international partners.

Mr. President, this is a bill whose time has come. Unfortunately, USDA's problems in managing information technology are not unusual among government agencies, according to the General Accounting Office. I commend the attention of my colleagues to this bill designed to address a portion of the information resource management problems of the Federal Government and ask for their support of it.

Mr. BOND. I rise to engage the chairman of the committee in a colloquy to clarify a provision of the bill. Mr. Chairman, Section 8 of S. 2116 requires the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer up to 10 percent of the information technology or information resource management funds from each office or agency to the account of the Chief Information Officer. Some of my constituents have expressed concern that this transfer of funds may cause a reduction in the number of employees in an office or agency. A scenario has been brought forth where an office or agency finds it necessary to reduce the number of its employees, using a variety of methods, to facilitate the transfer of funds. Would the chairman address this point?

Mr. LUGAR. At no point during deliberations with the Department of Agriculture was it ever envisioned the transfer of information technology funds would cause reductions in force or furloughs. In fact, great care was taken early in the process to exclude salaries and expenses and intergovernmental payments from the calculations used to determine the amount necessary to adequately fund the development of an information technology architecture. This legislation does not authorize reductions in force or furloughs. The information technology architecture includes telecommunications, service center implementation, and site licenses for computer software and hardware. As introduced, the bill required a transfer of 5 percent of the information technology funds from each office and agency to the Chief Information Officer. Five percent of those funds represented approximately \$40 million. Further negotiations with the department resulted in a revision in the bill that permits the Secretary to transfer up to 10 percent of the information technology funds. This amendment gives the Secretary the flexibility he requested to adjust transfers commensurate with the information technology architecture needs of each office and agency. This transfer authority terminates on September 30, 2003. I hope this addresses the Senator's concerns.

Mr. BOND. I thank the Chairman for the clarification.

Mr. CONRAD. I also rise to engage the chairman of the committee in a colloquy to clarify the provision of the bill. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your response to the question from the Senator from Missouri. Workforce reductions at Farm Service Agency as well as other agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture have impacted the quality of services provided. Employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture have expressed concern that fund transfers authorized by Section 8 of S. 2116 would be made from an agency's Salary and Expenses budgets and could result in additional workforce reductions. Given the increasing workload at Farm Service Agency field offices in many States, I feel that it is vital that this concern be addressed. Mr. Chairman, is it your intention that fund transfers will be made in a manner which does not jeopardize funds available for salaries?

Mr. LUGAR. As I noted in my earlier remarks, that is my intention. It is my hope that the Secretary will avoid such actions. If, however, the Secretary considers a reduction-in-force or furloughs, I expect that he will first consult the committee before going forward with such actions.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Chairman for his helpful remarks.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I ask unanimous consent that the substitute amendment be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3818) was agreed to.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I ask unanimous consent that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2116), as amended, was considered read the third time and passed.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1998

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until 11 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 1998. I further ask that the time for the two leaders be reserved.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I further ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business until 12 noon with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator KENNEDY, 20 minutes; Senator LOTT or his designee, 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, on Tuesday, the Senate will convene at 11 a.m., and begin a period of morning business until 12 noon. Following morning business, the Senate will await the outcome of the negotiations on the omnibus appropriations bill. As a reminder to all Members, it is hoped that the remaining legislation of the 105th Congress can be disposed of by unanimous consent. However, if a roll-call vote is needed on the omnibus bill, all Members will be given ample notice in order to plan their schedules accordingly.

I have one more unanimous consent request.

DAY OF NATIONAL CONCERN ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE AND GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 264, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 264) to designate October 8, 1998, as the Day of National Concern About Young People and Gun Violence.

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and the preamble be agreed to, en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related thereto be placed in the RECORD at the appropriate place.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 264) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 264

Whereas every day in America, 15 children under the age of 19 are killed with guns;

Whereas in 1994, approximately 70 percent of murder victims aged 15 to 17 were killed with a handgun;

Whereas in 1995, nearly 8 percent of high school students reported having carried a gun in the past 30 days;

Whereas young people are our Nation's most important source, and we, as a society, have a vested interest in helping children grow from a childhood free from fear and violence into healthy adulthood;

Whereas young people can, by taking responsibility for their own decisions and actions, and by positively influencing the decisions and actions of others, help chart a new and less violent direction for the entire Nation;

Whereas students in every school district in the Nation will be invited to take part in a day of nationwide observance involving millions of their fellow students, and will thereby be empowered to see themselves as significant agents in a wave of positive social change; and

Whereas the observance of this day will give American students the opportunity to make an earnest decision about their future by voluntarily signing the "Student Pledge Against Gun Violence", and sincerely promise that they will never take a gun to school, will never use a gun to settle a dispute, and will use their influence to prevent friends from using guns to settle disputes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate designates October 8, 1998, as "the Day of National Concern About Young People and Gun Violence"; and

(2) the President should be authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the school children of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE
RECEIVED DURING RECESS

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the Secretary of the Senate, on October 12, 1998, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3610. An act to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance training, research and development, energy conservation and efficiency, and consumer education in the oilheat industry for the benefit of oilheat consumers and the public, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3910. An act to authorize the Automobile National Heritage Area in the State of Michigan, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4566. An act to make technical corrections to the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 with respect to the courts and court system of the District of Columbia.

H.R. 4567. An act to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the per beneficiary and per visit home health payment limits under the medicare program, to improve access to health care services for certain medicare-eligible veterans, to authorize additional exceptions to the imposition of civil money penalties in cases of payments to beneficiaries, and to expand the membership of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission.

H.R. 4735. An act to make technical corrections to the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 295. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the 65th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933 should serve as a reminder of the brutality of the government of the former Soviet Union's repressive policies toward the Ukrainian people.

H. Con. Res. 320. Concurrent resolution supporting the Baltic people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and condemning the Nazi-Soviet Pact of Non-Aggression of August 23, 1939.

H. Con. Res. 334. Concurrent resolution relating to Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2186) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming.

The House also announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2431) to establish an Office of Religious Persecutions Monitoring, to provide for the imposition of sanction against countries engaged in a pattern of religious persecution, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2616) to amend title VI and X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and expand charter schools.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2886) to provide for a demonstration project in the Stanislaus National Forest, California, under which a private contractor will perform multiple resource management activities for that unit of the National Forest System.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3528) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the use of alternative dispute resolution process in United States district courts, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3796) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to con-

vey the administrative site for the Rogue River National Forest and use the proceeds for the construction or improvement of offices and support buildings for the Rogue River National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3903) to provide for an exchange of lands located near Gustavus, Alaska, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4309) to provide a comprehensive program of support for victims of torture.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 391. An act to provide for the disposition of certain funds appropriated to pay judgment in favor of the Mississippi Sioux Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 852. An act to establish nationally uniform requirements regarding the titling and registration of salvage, nonrepairable, and rebuild vehicles.

S. 1408. An act to establish the Lower East Side Tenement National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

S. 1525. An act to provide financial assistance for higher education to the dependents of Federal, State, and local public safety officers who are killed or permanently and totally disabled as the result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 469. An act to designate a portion of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

S. 1677. An act to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act.

S. 1718. An act to amend the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 to authorize the acquisition of additional acreage for the historic site to permit the development of visitor and administrative facilities and to authorize the appropriations of additional amounts for the acquisition of real and personal property.

H.R. 4110. An act to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in rates of compensation paid to veterans with service-connected disabilities, to make various improvements in education, housing, and cemetery programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, without amendment:

S. 231. An act to establish the National Cave and Karst Research Institute in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

S. 1333. An act to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to allow national park units that cannot charge an entrance or admission fee to retain other fees and charges.

S. 2106. An act to expand the boundaries of Arches National Park, Utah, to include portions of certain drainages that are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and to include a portion of Fish Seep Draw owned by the State of Utah, and for other purposes.